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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/927,719	08/11/2001	Clarence E. Blanchard	JT-3166-US	6359

23566 7590 04/01/2003

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EXAMINER	
WRIGHT, ANDREW D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3617	

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/927,719

Applicant(s)

BLANCHARD, CLARENCE E.

Examiner

Andrew Wright

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 34-42 and 45-48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-31, 43 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32 and 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 29-31, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies (US 2,676,559, newly cited) in view of Hall (US 5,273,467, previously cited). Davies discloses a boat with an outboard propulsion system mounted to the hull. The propulsion system comprises an engine (1), an exhaust housing (4), thrust bracket (5), propeller unit (column 7), and drive train (column 7). The exhaust housing is pivotally mounted to the hull, supports the engine, and has an internal exhaust gas passage. The thrust bracket comprises a flat plate that lies flat against the stern (see figures 1, 3, 10-12) and walls (136). The walls are parallel to each other and extend perpendicular to the flat plate. The walls (136) receive the exhaust housing (4) in the space defined between them, and prevent lateral rotation of the exhaust housing. Davies shows a horizontal propeller shaft that drives a propeller. The propeller shaft is connected to the engine via a drive train that includes a vertical drive shaft. Davies does not show an axial flow pump unit with an impeller and an exhaust gas passage that is in communication with the passage of the housing. Hall shows as prior art an outboard motor in figure 1. The depiction is essentially that of Davies: a propeller drive and the exhaust being routed through the drive shaft housing below the waterline while

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not going through the propeller unit. Hall shows in figures 5 and 6 that one can replace the propeller unit with an axial flow pump unit, the unit having an impeller and also having the exhaust routed therethrough. The axial flow pump unit has an exhaust passage (42) that communicates with exhaust passage (62) of housing (36). The axial flow pump unit inherently has a water duct. Hall teaches that it is known to route the exhaust through the hub to reduce drag (column 1, lines 25-41). Hall teaches that it is known to replace a propeller with an axial flow impeller for the purpose of reducing hazards to swimmers (column 1, lines 59-66). Hall teaches that the impeller is attached to horizontal propeller shaft (16). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Davies by using an impeller instead of a propeller and by routing the exhaust through the impeller unit, both as taught by Hall.

3. Regarding claim 30, the thrust bracket (5) has a flat plate and a pair of thrust walls (136) that are generally perpendicular to the plate.

4. Regarding claim 31, the drive train comprises a generally vertical drive shaft coupled to the engine and gears for converting the rotation of the drive shaft into rotation of the horizontal propeller shaft.

5. The modified invention of Davies includes all of the recited limitations of claim 43. Regarding claim 44, the propulsion system comprises sleeve (132) that comprises a pair of semi-cylindrical brackets bolted together about housing (4). The brackets are coupled via bracket (131) to a tilt pivot tube that extends around bolt (130). The propulsion unit is pivotable relative to the hull about the longitudinal axis of bolt (130).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 34-42 and 45-48 are allowed.
7. Claims 32 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach or suggest the outboard waterjet propulsion system of claim 29 with the added feature of the exhaust housing comprising a pair of brackets for coupling with a tilt pivot tube (claim 32); the prior art does not teach or suggest the outboard waterjet propulsion system of claim 29 with the added feature of a generally horizontal inlet to the water duct (claim 33).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29-31, 33, 43 and 44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rice, Jr., Harris et al., and Heide all disclose a thrust bracket that has a flat plate and a pair of walls that prevent lateral movement of the component between the walls.
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Andrew D. Wright at telephone number (703) 308-6841. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano, can be reached at (703) 308-0230. The fax number for official communications is 703-872-9326 for before final proceedings and 703-872-9327 for after final proceedings. The fax number for the examiner for unofficial communications is 703-746-3548.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist at (703) 308-1113.

Andrew D. Wright
Patent Examiner
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AW 3/24/03